

!! Continuations from Page 1 !!

J&K set to...

brehtaking landscapes and vibrant cultural heritage, the Chief Minister said J&K embraces visitors from across India and around the world. He emphasized that the government is actively working to broaden the tourism canvas beyond traditional destinations.

The CM announced the development of new tourism circuits and the identification of nine emerging destinations aimed at offering fresh experiences to travellers.

Reflecting on recent challenges, the Chief Minister said the government has drawn important lessons from past experiences. "Have lessons been learned from what happened last year. The fact that it took us so long to open many of our closed destinations is indicative of the lessons we have learned," he remarked, adding that the focus now is firmly on the future and on building a more resilient and responsive tourism ecosystem.

The event was organised by the Jammu & Kashmir Tourism Forum under the leadership of noted hotelier Mushtaq Chaya. Honorary Secretary General of the Forum, Wahid Malik, described the gathering as a historic moment in positioning Jammu & Kashmir as a safe and vibrant all-season tourism hotspot.

Mushtaq Chaya termed the present phase as one of "unprecedented progress and development," assuring visitors of world-class hospitality and improved facilities across Jammu and Kashmir.

The event witnessed the presence of Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani; MLAs Pirzada Farooq Ahmad Shah, Tanvir Sadiq and Altaf Ahmad Wani; Director Tourism Jammu Vikas Gupta; ambassadors from several countries; travel association leaders; senior government officials; and prominent tourism stakeholders, making it a landmark occasion in the promotion of Jammu & Kashmir tourism.

CM visits SATTE...

regions of Jammu & Kashmir.

During his engagement with industry leaders, he emphasized that Jammu & Kashmir today offers a diverse and expanding tourism portfolio - ranging from adventure tourism and rich heritage experiences to pilgrimage circuits and world-class MICE opportunities. He invited travellers and investors alike to discover an open, vibrant Jammu & Kashmir, ready to welcome the world with renewed confidence and warmth. On the occasion, the Chief Minister also toured the exhibition area. Jammu & Kashmir's participation at SATTE 2026 featured nearly 70 tourism stakeholders as co-exhibitors, showcasing destinations, services and promotional material highlighting the region's tourism, heritage, adventure & pilgrimage tourism potential. Live performances by traditional folk musicians added cultural vibrancy to the pavilion and attracted significant visitor interest.

Officers of the Tourism Department shall be engaging with travel trade representatives during the exhibition, with the objective of strengthening tourism promotion and increasing tourist footfall in Jammu & Kashmir.

Balanced minds, bold...

industries alike. He directed the faculty members to make their higher education campuses the manufacturing hubs of new ideas.

"The effort must go beyond curriculum. Let there be genuine dialogue across disciplines. Let every lecture in every classroom become a doorway to new possibilities," he said.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor also launched the Podcast "JU Vaachan", an initiative of Department of Journalism and Media Studies, Jammu University. Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu, Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Prof. Neelu Rohmetra, Dean Research studies; Prof. Prakash Anthal, Dean Students Welfare; Heads of Departments, faculty members, senior officials and students in large number were present.

Padma Shri Dr Jitendra Udhamपुरi; Padma Shri Dr SP Varma; Padma Shri Romalo Ram; Ashok Bhan, former DGP, and prominent citizens from different walks of life also attended the inaugural ceremony.

Court issues warrants...

so-called United Jihad Council (UJC) and the proscribed terrorist organisation Hizbul Mujahideen. He is a known terrorist operator and instigator. The absconder is involved in several terrorist related FIRs registered in various police stations across the Kashmir Valley," an official said.

The other accused included Ghulam Nabi Khan alias Amir Khan, Sher Mohammad alias Bahadur aya Rizvi, and Nasir Yousuf Qadri.

The absconding accused Qadri is working for the terror narrative machinery and is allegedly involved in operating Kashmir Media Service (KMS), which is engaged in disseminating false narratives against the India and issuing threats against communities and individuals, officials said.

They said the case dates back to April 5, 1996, when credible inputs were received by CIK, Srinagar, that Pakistan-based terrorist handlers and intelligence agencies were actively motivating and facilitating Kashmiri youth to undergo terrorist training in PoK with the objective of waging war against India.

During the investigation, substantial material evidence was gathered establishing prima facie involvement of the accused affiliated with banned terror organisation Hizbul Mujahideen in unlawful and anti-national activities, including radicalisation, recruitment, and facilitation of terrorist operations, they added.

Officials said despite sustained and continuous efforts by CIK to apprehend them, the accused have remained absconding.

Illegal Construction on...

then Executive Officer issued two building permissions for construction of a double-storey shopping complex in favour of Ghulam Mohammad Mir, attorney holder of land measuring 1 Kanal and 16 Marlas under Khasra No. 661 at Bus Adda Regipora. "The permissions were granted without obtaining mandatory NOC from the Town Planning Organisation and in clear violation of the Jammu and Kashmir Control of Building Operations Act, 1988," the ACB official stated.

Investigations further established that the land had already been acquired and notified for public purpose - construction and expansion of the Bus Stand - and had vested with the government. "Once land is acquired for a public project, private individuals cease to have legal title to seek building permission. The accused officer was fully aware of this position," the official added.

It also surfaced that previous Executive Officers had declined building permission on the same site due to legal impediments, which were duly recorded in official files and inspection reports. Despite this, the accused allegedly facilitated illegal construction, causing a loss of Rs 57,37,500 to the state exchequer and jeopardising a key public infrastructure project. Following completion of investigation in FIR No. 14/2022, the chargesheet was filed under Section 5(1)(c)(d) read with 5(2) of the J&K Prevention of Corruption Act, Svt. 2006, and Section 120-B RPC. The next hearing has been fixed for April 18, 2026.

Major Crackdown on...

immediately halt the illegal extraction and misuse of natural resources while collecting actionable evidence for further investigation."

During the operation, the ACB conducted extensive searches, seizing electronic gadgets, critical records, and highly incriminating documents. Investigators also recovered multiple allegedly forged 'Form-A' transit documents directly from the operational sites, highlighting the fraudulent practices employed to bypass legal procedures.

The official further stated, "All inspected stone crushers were found operating in violation of mandated terms, indulging in illegal mining that has caused significant ecological damage to the region. This operation sends a strong message that corruption and environmental violations will not be tolerated."

The ACB confirmed that further investigations are underway based on the recovered evidence, and legal action will be initiated against those responsible. "We remain committed to dismantling networks that exploit Jammu's natural resources and ensuring strict compliance with mining regulations," the official concluded.

Bala Jyoti appointed...

except Delhi (Salary, Allowances and other Conditions of Service of Chairperson and Member) Rules, 2007; and the Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission for Union Territories except Delhi (Salary, Allowances and other Conditions of Service of Chairperson and Members) Amendment Rules, 2021 as amended from time to time," it added.

Govt to strictly...

Level Task Force Committees) online; Director, Geology and Mining; MD, JKML; Special Secretary, Mining Department; Senior Superintendents of Police; Director Finance, Mining; DMOs and other senior officers.

Reiterating the government's zero-tolerance policy against illegal mining in both Jammu and Kashmir divisions, the Deputy Chief Minister issued strict instructions that no vehicle shall be allowed to transport mining material without a valid 'Parchi' (authorized e- challan).

"Only one load must be permitted against each Parchi and any misuse or duplication shall be invite strict action against the violator," he said.

Making GPS tracking mandatory, the Deputy Chief Minister ordered that all vehicles involved in mining operations must have functional GPS devices installed. "Vehicles operating without GPS shall be seized immediately and stern action shall be taken against defaulters."

Emphasizing strict adherence to approved excavation limits, the Deputy Chief Minister asserted that no excavation shall exceed the prescribed depth and mining beyond authorized riverbed zones and illegal night operations shall be dealt with firmly.

Calling for stronger inter-departmental coordination, the Deputy Chief Minister stressed that collective responsibility and joint action are essential to eliminate illegal mining and prevent attempts to defame the administration. He assured full administrative backing to enforcement agencies and gave a free hand to the District Level Task Force to act decisively against violators.

"I give DCs, who head District Task Forces and SSPs a free hand to take strict action against illegal mining offenders, including complicit officials. No external pressure will be tolerated while dealing with the offenders," he stated.

The Deputy Chief Minister strictly directed the Mining Department to intensify monitoring mechanisms and strengthen ground-level enforcement to safeguard natural resources.

The Deputy Chief Minister directed the DCs to identify the mining blocks, environmental clearance, fair demolition of illegal units, information on mining fund utilization and compliance on ensuring complete ban on illegal mining in all Districts.

He instructed on clearance of pending power dues by the crusher units, suspension of MDLs and adopting best mining policies from other states and UTs to curb the mining operations in J&K.

During the meeting, the Deputy Chief Minister undertook a detailed review of measures, including the status of mineral blocks, e-auctions, GPS tracking and IMSS implementation, enforcement actions against illegal mining, compliance of crusher units, proposed amendments in royalty and penalties, progress under DMFT, mineral exploration activities and overall regulatory position of the Department.

During the meeting, Additional Chief Secretary, stressed on maintaining tight vigil and effective action be taken to address the challenge of illegal mining in J&K.

At the outset, Director Geology and Mining Department, briefed the chair about the overall functioning and measures taken to curb illegal mining operations.

J&K fully prepared...



the nationwide launch by the Prime Minister. Director Family Welfare MCH & Immunization J&K presented a PowerPoint Presentation highlighting all operational aspects regarding launch of HPV Vaccine including microplanning, availability of HPV Vaccine across all 20 districts, training of vaccinators and supervisors, robust cold chain management through eVIN, logistics distribution, AEFI (Adverse Events Following Immunization) surveillance mechanisms and digital registration and certification through the U-WIN portal.

Target age group was also discussed viz. 14 year old girls (those who have celebrated their 14th birthday but have not yet celebrated their 15th birthday). Girls who will turn 15 years within 90 days of the launch will also be eligible for vaccination during these three months campaign period.

It was informed in the meeting that a total of approximately 1,35,340 eligible beneficiaries have been identified for vaccination across the Union Territory.

Besides, roles and responsibilities of state, district and block-level stakeholders were discussed in detail. Special emphasis was laid on interdepartmental coordination, especially with the Education Department and ICDS for beneficiary mapping and community mobilization.

Key messages for caregivers were also highlighted, including the safety and efficacy of the vaccine, the need to wait for 30 minutes post-vaccination for observation, awareness about minor self-limiting AEFIs and availability of vaccination certificates through U-WIN.

The Secretary reiterated the importance of supportive supervision, daily monitoring, timely reporting and functional AEFI committees at all levels. He also directed the Joint Director Information to spread awareness regarding the vaccination. He stressed the need for consistent communication to counter misinformation and ensure community confidence.

The Secretary directed all the stakeholders to ensure seamless implementation of the programme, robust monitoring and 100% coverage of eligible girls across the Union Territory. He also expressed satisfaction over the preparedness made by the concerned departments.

The meeting concluded with a collective commitment to make the HPV Vaccination Campaign a success in J&K and contribute towards the long-term goal of eliminating cervical cancer as a public health problem.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner, Municipal Corporation Jammu/Srinagar; Mission Director, National Health Mission, J&K; Director, SKIMS Soura; District Development Commissioners J&K and Director, Health Services Jammu/Kashmir; Director, Family Welfare, MCH & Immunization, J&K; Director, School Education Jammu/Kashmir; Joint Director, ICDS, J&K; Joint Director, Information Jammu, Deputy Director, AYUSH, J&K; Principals of Government Medical Colleges and Principal, SKIMS Medical College Bemia along with their Medical Superintendents; Chief Medical Officers; State Immunization Officer J&K; Surveillance Medical Officer WHO Jammu/Kashmir and State Programme Officer, UNDP, among other senior officers.

Congress not just...

Youth Congress, who "fearlessly" raised their voice at the AI Summit. "Congress ke Babbar Sher logon ki jute kha ke bhaag gaye (The 'lions' of Congress ran away after being hit by shoes by the public)," Modi said.

The prime minister was apparently referring to the protesting Youth Congress workers being heckled by some people at the AI Summit.

On February 20, a group of Indian Youth Congress (IYC) workers staged a dramatic protest inside Hall No. 5 of the summit venue in Delhi by removing their shirts to reveal T-shirts printed with anti-government slogans, triggering a political slugfest between the BJP and the Congress.

"Congress can tear as many clothes as it wants, but we will continue to work for India's development. Congress not just shed clothes at the AI Summit, it also exposed its ineptibilities in front of foreign guests," Modi said in his nearly 45-minute speech.

He said the AI Summit was a moment of pride for the entire nation, but unfortunately, Congress attempted to tarnish this national celebration.

"When the frustration and despair of failure weigh on the mind, and arrogance makes one's head spin, such a mindset emerges to defame the country," he said.

The prime minister also alleged that the Congress always takes refuge in Mahatma Gandhi to hide its failures, but tries to give credit to one family for anything good.

"People of our country welcomed every good step taken by our government, but the Congress only knows how to oppose everything. The votes of Congress are not stolen; rather, people do not consider Congress worthy of their votes. Millennials first taught a lesson to Congress, now Gen-Z is ready to do the same," he said.

Modi also said that in a democracy, the role of the opposition is not just about blindly opposing every move of the government, but presenting an alternative vision, and that is why the "enlightened public" of the country is "teaching a lesson" to Congress now.

NHRC asks ministries...

the "Anytime Testing Machine (ATM)".

The complainant alleged potential vulnerabilities relating to the collection, processing, storage and possible cross-border transfer of minors' personal data, raising concerns of data breach and inadequate safeguards. The intervention of the Commission in the matter was sought, as the complainant requested for data protection and appropriate safeguards in the interest of children.

The complaint is filed by the NAMO Foundation, which submitted a report titled "Children's Privacy at Stake? Assessing Data Breach Risks in the Pratham-Anthropie AI Collaboration under India's DPDP Act".

The complaint arises from apprehended risks to children's privacy and data protection under the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, 2023.

The bench of the Commission, presided over by Member Priyanka Kanoongo, observed that while it is important to work on new AI systems, such initiatives must

take into consideration the existing education system and comply with education policies and laws in force in India.

Referring to Section 5(2) of the DPDP Act, 2023, the Commission noted that where consent for processing personal data was obtained before the commencement of the Act, the data fiduciary is required, as soon as reasonably practicable, to inform the data principal about the personal data processed, the purpose of processing, the manner in which rights may be exercised and the process for lodging complaints.

J&K close to...

But before Nabi could deal the biggest blow, Sahil Lotra removed Kruthik, trapping the wicketkeeper batter leg before even though the ball might have made a slight contact with the bat.

Left-arm pacer Sunil Kumar ousted Vidyadhar Patil as J&K maintained their upper hand.

But Nabi snuffed out any last vestiges of hope Karnataka entertained, pinging Agarwal's pads and the DRS confirmed the hosts' worst fears.

Asked how exciting was the prospect of lifting the trophy for the first time, J&K's Sahil Lotra said, "This is just the beginning, we are all happy and excited, this is the first time we are playing in the finals, this is a very proud moment for us.

"We are just moving forward, the hard work we have put in this year, the discipline we have shown, this is the result of that.

Speaking about coach Ajay Sharma, Lotra said that always stays positive and wants the players to give their 100 percent at all times.

"The entire year, for the past six months, he has been making us practice, our net sessions. He has always said that there is tension outside, he just wants us to be 100% in the net and 100% in the match.

"He is always positive in the dressing room. Before and after Ajay sir's arrival."

When asked about the changes Sharma has brought into the team, Lotra said, "I think the main thing is discipline, because for the past four years, we have always had a three-month camp before the season. We play everywhere, whether it is in Kashmir or Jammu, we also go out to play tournaments, Buchi Babu."

With one-and-half-days play still remaining in the match, Karnataka might have hoped to bowl out J&K cheaply and mount a fourth innings chase, as they had done a couple of times this season.

They started well too, reducing the opposition to 11 for two, but Iqbal added 61 runs for the third wicket with captain Paras Dogra and then milked 73 for the fourth wicket with Abdul Samad as J&K sped away.

Iqbal's batting was quite entertaining as he often used the space inside the crease to give himself room, carting bowlers for boundaries.

It once irked Karnataka pacer Vysakh Vijayakumar, who verbally engaged with the batter and it required the intervention of on-field umpire Rohan Pandit.

On his part, Mayank praised Nabi for the manner in which has bowled and put Karnataka under pressure.

"He deserves the credit and the wickets. I think the good thing that he's done is he's challenged batsmen, he's challenged the batsmen's edges, both sides of the edges and also he's kept very, very tight lines.

"So, keeps you under pressure. I won't discuss about what I did because obviously..." Mayank also said that the plan was to take it session by session when they batted.

"Well, very honestly, it was just about playing one hour, one session and take it session by session. "The thought was that if we can play the first session without losing a wicket, then I know things could have changed a bit because the new ball would have been done. "They would have been on the field for some time and when you play a session without losing a wicket, it starts to quietly put pressure on them."

However, things panned out differently as Karnataka were bowled out under 300.

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday reached Hubbali to witness his team's historical title winning moment, which should come at some point on Saturday.

The BCCI president Mithun Manhas, a former administrator of J&K cricket, who was present here from the first day, returned to the city and other top BCCI officials are also expected to join him.

Manhas has made a quick trip to Chennai to attend India's T20 World Cup Super Eight match against Zimbabwe on Thursday.

Court discharges Kejriwal...

for six months in the case, Sisodia was behind bars for almost two years.

The CBI has been probing alleged corruption in the formulation and execution of the erstwhile AAP government's now scrapped excise policy.

"The Delhi court was unsparing in its criticism of the federal probe agency.

"The chargesheet suffers from internal contradictions, striking at the root of conspiracy theory," Justice Singh said.

Declaring that it found no "overarching conspiracy or criminal intent" in the liquor policy, the court said, "The excise policy case, as sought to be projected by the CBI, is wholly unable to survive judicial scrutiny and stands discredited in its entirety."

"Investigation appears to have proceeded on a predetermined trajectory, implicating virtually every person associated with the formulation or implementation of the policy in order to lend an illusion of depth and credibility to an otherwise fragile narrative," it said in the 598-page judgement.

RBI Dy Governor emphasizes principled performance for Viksit Bharat@2047 at IFAC 2026

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Indian Institute of Management Jammu on Friday began the 3rd International Finance and Accounting Conference (IFAC 2026) on the theme "Financial Strategies for Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Growth to achieve Viksit Bharat@2047" at the IIM Jammu. The two day conference was inaugurated by Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India, Swaminathan J.



Dean Faculty and Research, IIM Jammu, Professor Ali along with Dean Academics, IIM Jammu, Professor Nitin Upadhyay presided over the inaugural ceremony. Professor Pranab Ranjan, Conference Chair and Dr. Ashish Kumar, Joint Conference Chair, also graced the momentous occasion.

In his keynote address, Swaminathan J highlighted Institute's growing stature as a premier academic institution in the country and across the globe.

Speaking to an audience of distinguished experts and MBA students, he framed his address as a conversation with the future leaders, emphasizing that the financial system India builds towards 2047 must rest on three pillars: safety, fairness and reliability. He underscored that development extends beyond GDP to quality of life and that finance, at its core, is a people-centric enterprise built on trust, clarity and integrity.

Encouraging principled leadership, he highlighted key lessons for sound decision-making: respecting customers, understanding financial sustainability, encouraging constructive challenge and discussing risks transparently. He stressed that in an era where technology scales rapidly, both value and vulnerabilities multiply, making responsible design and fair customer outcomes critical for inclusive growth.

He concluded that achieving Viksit Bharat@2047 demands principled performance and platforms like IFAC 2026 connecting academic learning with real-world financial transformation.

Professor Jabir Ali, Dean Faculty and Research, IIM Jammu, emphasized that education must transcend classroom learning to foster a deeper understanding of public policy and its real-world impact, particularly in advancing inclusive and sustainable economic development.

Underscoring the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047, he highlighted the critical role of higher education institutions in shaping responsible leaders and policy thinkers who can contribute meaningfully to India's growth journey. He reaffirmed that IIM Jammu is committed towards setting the tone for this national vision through research-driven insights, strong academia-industry-government collaboration and ethical leadership rooted in innovation and sustainability.

Referring to collaborative engagements with the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, he noted that such platforms as IFAC 2026 enable students to develop a holistic understanding of industry, governance and economic transformation.

Professor Nitin Upadhyay, Dean Academics IIM, acknowledged the guiding influence of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in shaping India's financial architecture. He appreciated the conference's timely and forward-looking theme, "Financial Strategies for Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Growth to achieve Viksit Bharat@2047."

He emphasized that the deliberations at IFAC 2026 would explore multiple dimensions of finance and accounting, offering valuable insights for policymakers and practitioners to design robust mechanisms that contribute meaningfully towards the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.